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## **President Ben Shelly Orders Flags to be flown at half-staff in Honor of Navajo Code Talker Joe Morris Sr.**

**Window Rock, AZ**—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly announced today that he has ordered flags to be flown at half-staff beginning July 20-23, 2011, to honor the late Navajo Code Talker and U.S. Marine Corporal Joe Morris Sr., 85, of Indian Wells, Arizona, who passed away from health complications on July 17, in Riverside, California.

“Today, the Navajo Nation honors the late Cpl. Joe Morris Sr. who proudly served our country as a Navajo Code Talker and transmitted a battlefield code never broken by the enemy,” said President Shelly. “To his wife Charlotte Morris, our condolences and prayers go out to the family and grandchildren.”

Along with 420 other Navajo Code Talkers, Cpl. Morris Sr. served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II from 1944 to 1946. He toured with the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment in Guadalcanal, Guam, Saipan, Okinawa, Tinstao and China. After he was honorably discharged, Cpl. Morris was awarded combat ribbons for the Pacific Theater, medals for the China Occupation and as a rifle expert, and certificates of appreciation from President George W. Bush and the California Senate.

On November 25, 2001, he received the Silver Congressional Medal in Window Rock, along with the remaining 200 Navajo Code Talkers.

Born in 1926, he was of the Kin’lichii’nii Clan born for the Tse’ji’kini Clan, Ta’baa’hi are his maternal grandfathers and To’sto’nii Clan are his paternal grandfathers.

Cpl. Morris was married to Charlotte Morris, with three surviving children, Joseph Morris Jr., Colleen Anderson and Elliott Morris, and three grandchildren. His parents are the late Charley and Alice Morris of Indian Wells.

Following in her grandfather’s footsteps, Stephanie Morris was honorably discharged this year from the U.S. Marine Corps after serving two tours in Iraq for the past eight years.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on July 25, 2011 at East Hills Community Church located at 20660 Orange Terrace Parkway, followed by burial services at Riverside National Veteran Cemetery in Riverside, California.